



York County Office of Emergency Management Strategic Plan 2023-2025



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Executive Summary

York County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is pleased to present the department's Whole Community Emergency Management Program Strategic Plan for 2023-2025. This Plan is a continued effort towards becoming the premier Emergency Management Program within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our department mission is the focus for all activities through which OEM undergoes.

Our mission supports the overarching county mission of Building a Better York County. Our mission is supported by several goals that keep us anchored in fiscal responsibility, operations and infrastructure, people, programs and services, and outreach, education, and engagement.

Our goals are lofty, and we work hard to achieve them. But we don't do it alone. We believe in the whole community approach to emergency management. Because of that, we are advised by the York County Emergency Management Program Advisory Committee, which is charged with providing coordinated input by program stakeholders to ensure the emergency management program is developed and maintained in collaboration with program stakeholders, both from policy and operational levels.

This strategic plan will be reviewed and updated at the latest, every two years ensuring that performance objectives listed in



Figure 1 Cody Santiago, Director

subsequent sections are periodically evaluated.

We hope that this Strategic Plan provides you with a blueprint of where OEM is heading in the future. We are excited about the progress we have made in the past years and anticipate even greater progress in the future. It is with your support that we can continue growing and providing great customer service.

Cody Santiago
Director

Our Vision

It is the vision of the York County Office of Emergency Management to be recognized as the most professional, well respected, proactive, community and customer oriented municipal emergency management agency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Our Mission

York County Office of Emergency Management is charged with protecting the community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability to mitigate, protect from, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters.

We undertake this mission with clear customer-focus and recognition that people are the most valuable asset. We value the contributions and dedication of the personnel who staff the emergency response and management systems. We employ and deploy the best available technologies in support of our mission.

Core Values

Compassion, Respect, Community, Collaboration

York County

York County was incorporated in 1749 after it officially separated from Lancaster County. Prior to European settlement, the Susquehannock tribe inhabited the area. The Articles of Confederation were drafted in York and the first battle of the Civil War in Pennsylvania was fought in Hanover Borough.

York County covers approximately 911

York County is rich in its natural features, of note is the quality of the soil, which permits the agricultural industry to flourish. Over one-half of the County's land area is comprised of prime agricultural soils. Approximately 30% of the County's total land area is forested. The section of the Susquehanna River that borders York County extends 54 miles and



Figure 2 Information sign, courtesy www.yorkpa.org

square miles and is located in the south-central region of the Commonwealth. It is bounded by Cumberland and Dauphin Counties to the north; Carroll, Baltimore, and Harford Counties (Maryland (MD)) to the south; the Susquehanna River and Lancaster County to the east; and Adams County to the west. The County is bisected by two (2) major transportation corridors: Interstate 83 north to south and US Route 30 east to west.

includes four (4) lakes formed from impounding dams. There are over 100 identified streams in the County. The bulk of York County lies within the Lower Susquehanna River Basin, with a small portion near the Maryland State line in the Gunpowder River Basin.

York County is a Third Class Pennsylvania County. It contains 72 municipalities: 35 townships, 36 boroughs and the City of York. The City of York is the County's largest

municipality by population and serves as the County seat.

Agriculture has always been an important factor in the County's economy, but the advent of railroads and canals allowed industry to prosper. Manufacturing of paper, heating and cooling units, snack foods, and motorcycles have substantially contributed to the County's economy. Highway improvements spurred

residential suburbanization and fostered economic development.

According to the 2021 population estimates issued by the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau, York County had a total population of 458,696. This represents an increase of approximately 5.5% since 2010. York County is the 8th most populous county in the Commonwealth.

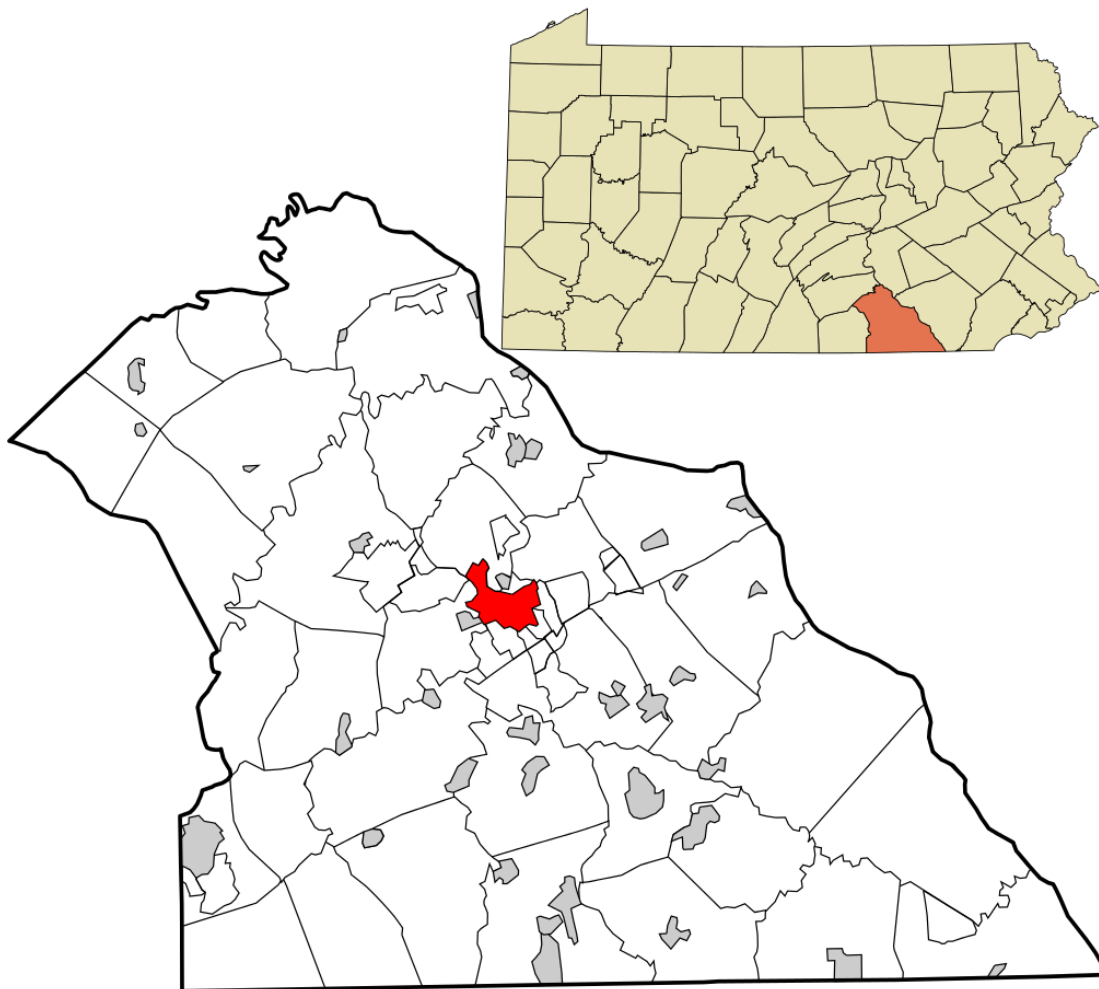


Figure 3 Map showing the location of York City within York County, Pennsylvania.

Program Goals, Objectives, and Milestones

A. Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Improve the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) process to better serve the local Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs) and York County. This supports the county's strategic anchor Operations and Infrastructure.

Objective 1.1. Begin the process earlier in the year to allow adequate time to meet with all stakeholders.

Objective 1.2. Broaden the list of stakeholders to ensure all 32 core capabilities are covered.

Goal 2. Restore the stakeholder relationships that became downgraded during Covid. This supports the county's strategic anchor Outreach, Education, and Engagement.

Objective 2.1. Communicate with stakeholders to assure them we are a trusted partner.

Objective 2.2. Work with stakeholders to develop training and exercises.

Goal 3. Provide a quality training program that supports the PEMA Training Directive and the SPR. This supports the county's strategic anchor Programs and Services.

Objective 3.1. Develop a robust training and exercise plan.

Objective 3.2. Ensure adequate opportunities to allow for PEMA recertification.

B. Annual milestones for the Emergency Management Program

1. Begin the SPR process in a timely manner.
2. Complete Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) exercise requirements by October 1 annually.
3. Develop the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) by November 1 annually.
4. Complete Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant by September 30 annually.
5. Complete the Hazardous Materials Response Fund requirements by June 30 annually.

6. Complete the requirements for Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) including Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and Tier II.
7. Complete the Radiation Protection Act 147 requirements by June 30 annually.
8. Complete county OEM staff certification in accordance with the PEMA directive.

C. Accomplishments for 2022

Accomplishment 1. Completed the first York County-level SPR.

Accomplishment 2. Reestablished the Public Information Officer (PIO) position.

Accomplishment 3. Conducted several cybersecurity exercises.

Accomplishment 4. Developed a PIO consortium to support large-scale incidents.

Plan Implementation

The county's emergency management program derives its strength from our partnerships with our stakeholders. This plan is implemented at the end of the IPP process annually, for a period of three years. The plan is developed after analyzing the SPR and IPP, along with the previous Strategic Plan. The York County Emergency Management Advisory Committee also provides input to the plan.

Plan Maintenance

This plan is reviewed periodically throughout the implementation period. The goals are evaluated and reported through the York County OEM Annual Report. At this time revisions are made if necessary.

Moving Forward

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

- Henry Ford

As we look toward the future of emergency management in York County, we realize this industry is evolving. It is becoming more professional. We must continue to improve and grow with it. We want to be recognized as leaders in our field.

Working with community stakeholders, from the highest level of government to the individual who calls York County home, we want to do everything in our power to make York County disaster resistant and resilient.

This Strategic Plan is a tool we will use to help us achieve results. It will guide us with specific and measurable targets. We will use this plan to hold ourselves accountable, and we hope that York County will hold us accountable as well.